
Governor's School and Campus Safety Task Force

Public Safety Workgroup ~ RECOMMENDATIONS 1/29/13 ~

PASSED on 1/24/13 (*"As is" or with caveat of amendment(s) or revised language as appropriate*)

TOPIC: SAFETY AND SECURITY

#5, with modifications discussed during last week's work-group meeting, has been submitted for drafting and will consider #2 in the inclusion of that recommendation. MERGED

- **(5) GUN LEGISLATION (WITMER):** Creates new criminal offenses for entering a school while armed or while in possession of an explosive device while intending to commit a violent felony listed in Code § 19.2-297.1. Proposed punishment is a Class 2 felony (20 years-life), consistent with existing punishment for entering a bank while armed with intent to commit larceny.
- **(2) WEAPONS RESTRICTIONS (VSP):** The prohibition against persons possessing firearms on public, private, or religious elementary, middle, or high school building and intends to use, or attempts to use, such firearm, or displays such weapon in a threatening manner is currently a Class 5 felony. Our schools are charged with overseeing our most precious commodity, our children. This is also the place our children are most vulnerable, as there is a large group of children assembled in a single place making schools an easy target for someone intent on terrorizing our communities and intent on achieving a high body count.

TOPIC: JUVENILE RECORDS INFORMATION SHARING

- **(7, 8, 9 COMBINED) JUVENILE RECORDS INFORMATION SHARING**

This proposal amends and re-enacts §§ 16.1-260, 16.1-300, 16.1-305.2, 19.2-389.1, and 32.1-127.1:03 of the Code of Virginia and creates § 22.1-79.4 of the Code of Virginia relating to sharing juvenile intake and petition information with school divisions and public and private institutions of higher education. It makes the following changes:

- Requires juvenile intake officers to notify school division superintendents, the chief of campus police departments, and the local chief of police or sheriff of any juvenile who poses a credible danger to the school, staff, or students.
- Requires notification of intake petitions filed on certain offenses to be shared with the chief of the campus police department in which the juveniles is enrolled. Under current law, this information is shared only with the school division superintendent.
- Adds to information subject to the notification requirements to be provided to the school division superintendent (and chief of the campus police department) to include:
 - Any delinquency petition for all violent juvenile felony offenses and
 - Any petition filed pursuant to the Psychiatric Treatment of Minors Act.
- Retains the limitation on the redisclosure of intake petition information to that provided for in § 16.1-305.2.

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- Adds an exception to the confidentiality of Department of Juvenile Justice records to provide for the sharing of confidential juvenile information with school division or public or private nonprofit institution of higher education threat assessment teams.
 - Allows the notification of intake petition information to be shared with any threat violence prevention or threat assessment team established by a school division, a public institution of higher education, or a private nonprofit institution of higher education.
 - Prohibits the sharing of any petition filed pursuant to the Psychiatric Treatment of Minors Act with any students.
 - Requires local school boards to develop and implement policies and procedures for violence prevention and establish a committee tasked with violence prevention education and intervention.
 - Requires the division superintendent to establish a specific threat assessment team in each school in the division.

TOPIC: MANDATED BEHAVIORAL TEAM PROGRAMS

- **(10 and 12 Combined) (PERKINS, CORNELL, DCJS, DJJ, ELLIS): MANDATED K-12 SCHOOL DIVISION THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS:**
This proposal requires each school board to establish a violence prevention committee and requires each K-12 public school to have a threat assessment team, similar to those provided for public and private institutions of higher education in § [23-9.2:10](#) of the *Code of Virginia*. Code should dictate who should be on the team and direct the Center for School Safety to establish training standards for threat assessment trainings and certify schools' completion in such.
- **(13) MANDATED REPORTING THREAT ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS (ELLIS):** School divisions shall annually report, to the Virginia Center for School Safety, quantitative data collected on threat assessments. The content of required data elements will be determined by the Virginia Center for School Safety. Collecting quantitative data would allow VCSS to examine this issue, along with trends, state-wide
- **(14) MANDATORY STUDY OF COLLEGE THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS (CORNELL):** DCJS should conduct a study to determine compliance with the new law and to evaluate the nature and quality of threat assessment teams in Virginia colleges and universities, and should make recommendations to the General Assembly on any needed improvements. Virginia colleges and universities should be required to participate in a safety audit of college threat assessment services at their institution, including the release of deidentified data on cases.

TOPIC: SAFETY AUDITS and CRISIS/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANS

- **(19) ESTABLISHMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGER FOR SCHOOLS (FORESMAN):** Each school division with the Commonwealth shall have on staff an Emergency Manager who can coordinate school preparedness within the division and also coordinate with the locality in which they reside.
- **(21) FUNDING FOR FACILITY UPGRADES (WITMER):** Propose the creation of a \$10 million fund to provide grants and loans to localities, subject to a local match, for facility upgrades of older schools to improve security.
- **(22) LOCKDOWN DRILLS MANDATED (ELLIS):** Require all public K-12 schools to conduct one (1) lockdown drill, to be accomplished no later than February 1 of each school year. We enacted a regulation to this affect; however, it would be helpful to have the authority of the law to obtain

compliance. The February time line would prevent schools from waiting to the end of the school year to conduct the drill.